

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9635

INFO CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7624

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR KS US

SUBJ: ADMIRAL WEISNER CALLS ON PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER

SUMMARY: ADMIRAL WEISNER CALLED ON PRESIDENT PARK AND PRIME MINISTER ON SEPTEMBER 22. BOTH EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH EVENTS AFTER AUGUST 18 AND RECENT WITHDRAWAL OF HOSTILE RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. I ACCOMPANIED ADMIRAL WEISNER AND GENERAL STILWELL ON THE ADMIRAL'S CALLS TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER, WHICH TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 1630 AND 1730 ON SEPTEMBER 22. THE PRIME MINISTER RENDERED HIS THANKS TO THE EMBASSY AND UNC FOR THEIR ACTIONS SUBSEQUENT TO THE AUGUST 18 INCIDENT. HE ALSO INDICATED SATISFACTION WITH THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION IN THE UN. HE POINTED OUT THAT IT WAS LOGICAL FOR THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION TO BE WITHDRAWN ALSO, SINCE THE ROKG'S BASIC POSITION WAS TO AVOID ANNUAL DEBATE IN THE UN FORUM. HE NOTED THAT THE ROKG WAS STILL ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE THE MOTIVES OF THE NORTH IN WITHDRAWING THE RESOLUTION; HE, HIMSELF, TENDED TO ACCEPT THE THESIS THAT THE NORTH HAD COUNTED THE NUMBER OF VOTES WHICH
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WOULD SUPPORT THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION AND HAD FOUND

THAT ITS SUPPORT WAS WANING.

2. THE PRESIDENT INITIATED THE CONVERSATION WITH A QUESTION CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE AUGMENTED FORCES THAT THE US HAD BROUGHT TO KOREA AFTER THE AUGUST 18 INCIDENT. HE SAID THAT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT THE AUGUST 18 INCIDENT HAD OCCURRED BUT OUT OF IT HAD COME VALUABLE LESSONS. MOST IMPORTANT WAS THE RAPIDITY OF US FORCE DEPLOYMENTS IN THE IMMEDIATE WAKE OF THAT INCIDENT. THE US REACTION WAS A CLEAR WARNING TO THE NORTH. PYONGYANG MUST HAVE BEEN SURPRISED BY THE RAPIDITY OF THOSE DEPLOYMENTS AS WELL AS BY THE CLOSENESS OF ROK/US MILITARY COLLABORATION. THOSE DEPLOYMENTS WERE EQUALLY REASSURING TO THE ROKG. THE PRESIDENT EXPRESSED HIS VIEW THAT ANY NORTH KOREAN ATTACK COULD BE REPELLED WITHOUT US GROUND FORCE INVOLVEMENT IF THE US RESPONDED AS SWIFTLY WITH AIR AND NAVAL SUPPORT.

3. HE SPECULATED THAT THE NORTH HAD A NUMBER OF PURPOSES IN MIND IN INSTIGATING THE AUGUST 18 INCIDENT, BUT FELT THAT IT HAD GAINED NOTHING. IN RESPONSE TO THIS COMMENT, ADMIRAL WEISNER STATED THAT HE FELT THAT THE NORTH NOT ONLY HAD NOT GAINED ANYTHING, BUT, IN FACT, HAD LOST PRESTIGE IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD. THE PRESIDENT NODDED AGREEMENT TO THE ADMIRAL'S ANALYSIS AND SAID THAT THE NORTH HAD "LOST FACT" IN LIGHT OF THE AUGUST 18 INCIDENT AND THIS HAD UNDOUBTEDLY PLAYED A ROLE IN ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW THE HOSTILE RESOLUTION.

4. HE WENT ON TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT THE NORTH CONTINUED IN ITS INFILTRATION ATTEMPTS, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY THE DISCOVERY OF AGENTS SEPTEMBER 20 ALONG THE SOUTHERN COAST.

5. THE MEETING CLOSED WITH GENERAL STILWELL MAKING A NUMBER OF VERY HIGHLY COMPLIMENTARY REMARKS ABOUT GENERAL VESSEY, REASSURING THE PRESIDENT THAT HIS SUCCESSOR WAS A VERY ABLE OFFICER, FULLY ACQUAINTED WITH THE PROBLEMS OF THE PENINSULA.
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